Mint of the United States.

Philadelphia, May 9th 1879

Hon Alfred Snowden
Superintendent &c &c

Sir,

At the close of this month ten years will have elapsed since I entered the assay department of this mint as an assistant. I was then nineteen years of age and had been selected two years previously by Professor Morton (now President of the Stevens Inst. of Technology) as his assistant in Chemistry at the University of Penna.

Since entering the mint I have endeavored by close attention to my duties, as well as by continuing study and

RG104 E-1 Box 116

experimentation outside of Mint
hours to fit myself for a
higher grade. I have been
occupied in researches on
scientific matters bearing
on my profession, conducting
the experiments mainly at my
own expense and without
the expectation of any re-
muneration from the govern-
ment. Hitherto this voluntary
work has received little or no
encouragement from any of the
Mint authorities, with the ex-
ception of Mr DuBois. That the
results have not been devoid
of interest or value is indi-
cated by the fact that more
than one of my communi-
cations to Scientific Journals
on experiments relating more
or less to Minting operations
have been reprinted in foreign

RG104 E-1 Box 116

periodicals. The paper em-
bodying the result of an
extended investigation, which
I made at the University
on a new method of Assaying
by the Spectroscope, proposed
by J Norman Lockyer the English
astronomer and Prof Chandler
Roberts the Chemist of the
Royal Mint, was republished
in the British Quarterly Journ.
of Science; and although it
contradicted the sanguine
statements of these eminent
physicists, they have since
acknowledged the correctness
of my conclusions.

I mention these matters
to you because I should feel
gratified, without asking
for any advance in position,
if you could conveniently
give my position a name

RG104 E-1 Box 116

that is more suitable to
my station During the
incumbency of your predecessor
I requested some recognition
of the distinction which I
think exists between my place
and that of a laborer but
without avail.

I should also be glad to
receive your approbation to
complete the schedule of ex-
periments on Silver alloyed with
small percentages of base
metals, which I commenced
by permission of the late Director

The results already obtained
must considerably modify some
of the current theories regarding
the physical effects on Silver
of some of these metals.

I am very Respectfully
A. E. Outerbridge Jr.

RG104 E-1 Box 116

227½

The Mint of the United States,

AT

PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,

May 9th, 1879.

A E Outerbridge

~~Superintendent.~~

To

Subject: A. L. Snowden

Wants a better name given to his position. than laborer.

No. of Enclosures,

Rec'd May 9/79

RG104 E-1 Box 116

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 116

[Abstract:] Wants a better name given to his position than laborer.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia,
May 9, 1879

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent &c &c

Sir,

At the close of this month ten years will have elapsed since I entered the Assay department of this Mint as an assistant. I was then nineteen years of age and had been selected two years previously by Professor Morton (now President of the Stevens Inst. of Technology) as his assistant in Chemistry at the University of Penna.

Since entering the Mint I have endeavored by close attention to my duties, as well as by continuing study and experimentation outside of Mint hours to fit myself for a higher grade. I have been occupied in researches on scientific matters bearing on my profession, conducting the experiments to mainly at my own expense and without the expectation of any remuneration from the government. Hitherto this voluntary work has received little or no encouragement from any of the Mint authorities, with the exception of Mr. DuBois. That the results have not be devoid of interest or value is indicated by the fact that more than one of my communications to Scientific journals on experiments relating more or less to Minting operations have been reprinted in foreign periodicals. The paper embodying the result of an extended investigation, which I made at the University on a new method of Assaying by the Spectroscope, proposed by J. Norman Lockyer the English Astronomer and Prof. Chandler Roberts the Chemist of the Royal Mint, was republished in the British Quarterly Journal of Science, and although it contradicted the sanguine statements of these eminent physicists, they have since acknowledged the correctness of my conclusions.

I mention these matters to you because I should feel gratified, without asking for any advance in position, if you could conveniently give my position a name that is more suitable to my station during the incumbency of your predecessor. I requested some recognitions of the distinction which I think exists between my place and that of a laborer but without avail.

I should also be glad to receive your approbation to complete the schedule of experiments on Silver alloyed with small percentages of base metals, which I commenced by permission of the late Director.

The results already obtained must considerably modify some of the current theories regarding the physical effects of Silver of some of these metals.

I am very Respectfully,
A.E. Outerbridge Jr.